

**In the Claims:**

1. (currently amended) A microparticle ~~Microparticle~~ comprising
  - a) a bead ~~essentially~~ consisting essentially of a three dimensionally cross-linked carbohydrate and
  - b) an allergen which is covalently bound to the bead, wherein
  - e) the allergen is derived from plant pollen.
2. (currently amended) The microparticle ~~Microparticle~~ according to claim 1, wherein the carbohydrate bead consists essentially of agarose.
3. (currently amended) The microparticle ~~Microparticle~~ according to claim 1, wherein the allergen is derived from grass pollen.
4. (currently amended) The microparticle ~~Microparticle~~ according to claim 3, wherein the allergen is derived from timothy grass pollen.
5. (currently amended) The microparticle ~~Microparticle~~ according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 ~~[[ -6]]~~ wherein the particle size ranges from 0.1  $\mu\text{m}$  to 10  $\mu\text{m}$ .
6. (currently amended) The microparticle ~~Microparticle~~ according to ~~any of claims 1-7~~ claim 5 wherein the particle size ranges from 0.5  $\mu\text{m}$  to 5  $\mu\text{m}$ .
7. (canceled).
8. (canceled).
9. (currently amended) A medicament ~~Medicament~~ for the treatment of the immune system ~~characterized in that it comprises~~ comprising microparticles according to any one of claims 1-8.
10. (currently amended) The medicament ~~Medicament~~ according to claim 9, which is formulated ~~characterized in that it is prepared~~ for parenteral application.

11. (currently amended) A diagnostic ~~Diagnostic~~ test system ~~for the measurement of released cell mediators characterized in that it comprises~~ comprising administering the microparticles according to any one of claims 1-6, and then measuring the cell mediators released in response thereto.
12. (currently amended) The diagnostic ~~Diagnostic~~ test system according to claim 11, wherein the released cell mediator to be measured is an interleukin.
13. (new) A method of vaccinating a subject comprising administering an effective amount of the microparticle of claim 1 to a subject in need thereof.
14. (new) A method of treating an allergy comprising administering an effective amount of the microparticle of claim 1 to a subject in need thereof.